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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for using a computer system to permit a reader of a text that is presented on a computer display controlled by the computer system to optimize the rate at which text is presented, comprising the steps of:

determining the location on the computer display at which text is being read aloud by the reader;

defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of text presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is displayed in a neutral zone; and

~~defining at least one additional region of the display as a variable zone, wherein the rate of text presentation changes as a function of time while text being read aloud is displayed in said variable zone.~~

defining at least one additional region of the display as an acceleration zone,
associated with the presentation of text that comes after the text displayed in the
neutral zone at any given time, such that while the location at which text is being

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displayed and read aloud is in an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
~~such that when the location where text is being read corresponds to a variable zone, wherein said change increase in rate of text presentation is a function of the distance between the location where at which text is being read and said neutral zone.~~
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
defining at least one additional region of the display as a deceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes before the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within a deceleration zone, the rate of text presentation decreases.
wherein at least one said variable zone is an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes after the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining input to the computer system that stops continued scrolling of the text.

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5. (currently cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein
~~at least one said variable zone is an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes after the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases; and~~

~~at least one said variable zone is a deceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes before the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within a deceleration zone, the rate of text presentation decreases.~~

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining input to the computer system that causes the text to scroll backwards.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4 3, wherein said decrease in rate of text presentation is a function of the distance between the location at which text is being read and said neutral zone.

~~at least one said variable zone is a deceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text which comes before the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that while the text being read aloud is displayed within a deceleration zone, the rate of text presentation decreases.~~

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8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the location at which text is being read aloud is specified using a cursor-control device.
9. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of defining at least one zone graphically.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of defining at least one zone by using a cursor control device to specify its limits and shape.
11. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one zone is differentiated from at least one other zone by differing attributes of characters displayed within at least two zones.
12. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one zone is differentiated from at least one other zone by differing attributes of the display background within at least two zones.
13. (canceled)
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the location at which text is being read is determined by use of software that recognizes human speech.
15. (previously amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the computer system

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determines the location at which text is being read aloud by comparing what is said with what is written in the electronic text.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the text is supplied over a network.
17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein information about the location at which text is being read aloud is provided over a network.
18. (previously amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the cursor is not presented on a display device.
19. (currently amended) A computer memory storage device encoded with a computer program for using a computer system to display electronic text comprising:

means for determining the location on the computer display at which text is being read aloud by the reader;

means for defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of text presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is displayed in a neutral zone; and

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means for defining at least one additional region of the display as an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text that comes after the text displayed in the neutral zone at any given time, such that when the location at which text is being displayed and read aloud is in an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases.

~~a variable zone, wherein the rate of text presentation changes as a function of time while text being read aloud is displayed in said variable zone.~~

20. (currently amended) A computer system for displaying electronic text comprising:

a display device controlled by the computer, said display device imaging a portion of said text controlled by the computer system;

means for determining the location on the computer display at which text is being read aloud by the reader;

means for defining a region of the display as a neutral zone, such that the rate of text presentation does not change appreciably when the text being read aloud is displayed in a neutral zone; and

means for defining at least one additional region of the display as an acceleration zone, associated with the presentation of text that comes after the text displayed in

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the neutral zone at any given time, such that when the location at which text is being displayed and read aloud is in an acceleration zone, the rate of text presentation increases.

a variable zone, wherein the rate of text presentation changes as a function of time while text being read aloud is displayed in said variable zone.

means for varying the rate at which text is presented in response to the result of the location-determining step.